

September 24, 2003

FACT SHEET

PROPOSED RULE TO UPDATE AND STREAMLINE FIVE TEST METHODS FOR MEASURING AIR POLLUTION

TODAY'S ACTION

- ! The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to streamline five test methods for instruments that continuously measure sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and diluent gas emissions from industrial sources.
- ! By incorporating the latest technology and techniques, the proposed changes would make the five test methods more consistent and accurate for measuring “criteria” pollutants. The proposed revisions would remove inconsistencies in equipment and performance specifications to give the test methods similar requirements.
- ! The proposed updates will make the instrumental test methods easier for technicians in the field to use by harmonizing the procedures. These technicians, usually contractors hired by industrial facilities, measure emissions from sources such as refineries, power plants and chemical plants.
- ! We are also adding helpful calculation procedures, quality assurance recommendations, and provisions for sampling at low concentrations.
- ! Originally developed to measure air pollution from specific industries, these proposed changes will standardize the testing methods for a wider variety of applications.
- ! Additionally, these proposed amendments would correct minor editorial and technical errors that currently exist in the test methods.

BACKGROUND

- ! The updates are being proposed to the instrumental test methods in the Code of Federal Regulations (Appendix A of Part 60.) The test methods are currently used to measure diluent gas, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide under various State and Federal regulations.
- ! Most of the updates in this package were proposed as part of a larger rulemaking on August 27, 1997. The commenters requested a separate reproposal of those amendments because they felt the preamble to the 1997 rulemaking gave inadequate discussion of the amendments we were making. This is the reproposal.

WHO WILL BE AFFECTED BY THIS RULE?

- ! Sources that are already subject to the Clean Air Act's "New Source Performance Standards" will be affected by this rule. However, no emission standard is changed nor are any additional recordkeeping requirements made.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- ! Interested parties can download the rule from EPA's web site on the Internet under "Recent Actions" at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg>. For further information about the rulemaking, contact Foston Curtis at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-1063.
- ! EPA's Office of Air and Radiation's homepage on the Internet contains a wide range of information on many air pollution programs and issues. The Office of Air and Radiation's homepage address is: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/>.